



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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How to keep down the increase of coyotes by destroying the newly born pups before they leave the dens to shift for themselves is the subject of a publication just released by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

In Coyote Control by Means of Den Hunting, the authors, Stanley P. Young and Harold W. Dobyns, Service biologists, discuss the importance of den hunting, the qualifications and equipment needed by the den hunter, methods to be used, denning habits and location of denning sites, and tell how to remove the young coyotes from the dens.

"Coyotes are particularly destructive during the denning season because of the need of extra food both for themselves and for their young," point out the authors. "During that season of the year lambing bands of sheep on open ranges suffer the heaviest losses."

In the western range country the coyote is the most persistent and destructive predator because its food, to a large extent, consists of the mutton, beef, pork, and poultry produced by the stockman and farmer, as well as the wild game that needs to be preserved.

Because of these costly depredations, the Nation's livestock producers have a large stake in the business of controlling coyotes in areas where they are destructive.

The coyote is a further menace because it is a carrier of rabies, or hydrophobia. This disease was prevalent in Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho, and eastern Oregon in 1916 and 1917, and later in Washington and in southern Colorado. Since this widespread outbreak, sporadic cases of rabid coyotes have occurred each year in the western states. In addition, the coyote has also been found to be a carrier of tularemia, a disease of wild rabbits and other rodents that is transmissible and sometimes fatal to human beings.

Although the range of coyotes in the United States today is confined mainly to the states west of the Mississippi River, these predatory animals also exist in Alaska, Wisconsin, Michigan, and in other eastern and southern states including certain parts of New York and southeastern Alabama where they may have been ill-advisedly introduced by tourists.

Since 1915, in cooperation with states, counties, and livestock and farm associations, the Fish and Wildlife Service has directed the work of controlling animals that prey on livestock. From July 1, 1915, to June 30, 1944, these control operations have destroyed 1,771,663 predators, of which 1,569,625 were coyotes.

Coyote Control by Means of Den Hunting can be purchased for 5 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.